

February 20, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Right-to-work law doesn't apply to us, state employees' unions say in lawsuit

"Several state employee unions are asking the Michigan Court of Appeals to formally declare that new right-to-work laws do not apply to labor agreements that affect the 34,500 unionized state workers.... Three weeks ago, [Gov. Rick] Snyder asked the Michigan Supreme Court to determine whether the laws affect state workers, hoping to fend off lawsuits like this, which are popping up in the court system."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: State employee unions sue to clarify right-to-work laws

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

MLive.com: Union lawsuit: Michigan's right-to-work law does not apply to state workers

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: State employee unions challenge right-to-work law

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Bill would legalize medical pot distribution centers

"A bill was introduced Tuesday in the state House to legalize distribution centers in Michigan for medical marijuana. House Bill 4271 -- titled the Medical Marijuana Provisioning Center Regulation Act -- would let communities decide whether to allow such centers and where they could be located.... On Feb. 8, the state Supreme Court issued a ruling widely interpreted to ban in Michigan virtually any public facility that distributes medical marijuana."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The State News/East Lansing: Lawmaker tries to save marijuana dispensaries

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: U.S. Supreme Court tosses out Detroit arson 'double jeopardy' case

"The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday said a Detroit man can't be retried for burning a home in 2008 on the city's west side because of the court's landmark prohibition of 'double jeopardy.' In an 8-1 decision, the high court reversed the Michigan Supreme Court ruling that said Lamar Evans could face trial again after a state court judge threw out the case by erroneously interpreting the law."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Court bars retrial of Michigan arson suspect

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, and the Oakland Press.

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's PAC raised \$205,000 in 2012

"... [Supreme Court Justices Stephen Markman and Brian Zahra] were re-elected [in November]. [Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Colleen] O'Brien narrowly lost, but is among those [Gov. Rick] Snyder could pick to fill the recent vacancy created by the retirement of former Justice Diane Hathaway, a Democratic nominee who left the court abruptly amid a criminal investigation related to personal real estate deals."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Snyder raises \$72,000 for PAC

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

The Detroit News: Judge says DPS' Roy Roberts must consult board on some issues

"... The state's new emergency manager law takes effect March 28, essentially giving [Roy] Roberts full control over the district and leaving the board powerless. In the meantime, however, [Judge Annette] Berry has ordered Roberts to work with the board on several issues including consulting the board when he makes revisions to DPS's financial plan."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Detroit school board scores temporary victory in struggle with state over control

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Psychologist: Detroit mother accused of killing daughter incompetent to stand trial

"... Wayne County prosecutors asked for an independent evaluation of Semeria Greene, 26, during the competency hearing in Detroit's 36th District Court this morning. Judge Deborah Lewis Langston granted the request and set a new competency hearing date for May 29."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Detroit mom accused of killing daughter to have second competency exam

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: After Gentz gets 17-28 years in Jane Bashara's death, her family says the case is still not over

"Jane Bashara's sister said her family feels strongly that Tuesday's sentencing of a man who admitted to killing the Grosse Pointe Park mother isn't the end of the case. Former handyman Joseph Gentz was sentenced by Wayne Circuit Judge Vonda Evans to serve 17-28 years in prison for Bashara's death."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Handyman gets 17-28 years for Jane Bashara's murder

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Jane Bashara's sister: Family cannot start to heal yet

[Full story](#)

C & G Newspapers/Warren: State Supreme Court spurns appeal request on Eagle sale

"For the third time, a court has ruled that a plaintiff lacks standing to file a lawsuit over a property sale leading to the proposed development of a Muslim cultural center near the 14 Mile and Middlebelt intersection."

[Full story](#)

C & G Newspapers/Warren: Court bonds to be sold at end of month; Demolition begins on old courthouse

"A little more than a week after City Council gave the go-ahead for a bond sale, work began to take down the old 40th District Courthouse.... [Mayor Kip Walby] said the court's temporary location at the St. Gertrude Church school building was 'functioning pretty well.' It will take approximately 9-12 months for the new building construction to be completed."

[Full story](#)

C & G News/Warren: Macomb County judge linked to Franklin OWI arrest; Judge Richard Caretti could face possible child neglect probe after girlfriend's drunken driving arrest

"It all started with a frantic text message. Now, a Troy woman could be facing jail time for drunk driving while her boyfriend, a prominent Macomb County judge, is facing a possible child neglect investigation."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Judicial position opens up in Muskegon County (second article)

"There is an opening on the 14th Circuit Court in Muskegon County for a judge, as the seat of Hon. John C. Ruck comes available. The deadline to submit applications is March 7.... There is also an opening in the 42nd Circuit Court in Midland County. The vacating judge is Hon. Jonathan E. Lauderbach, and the application deadline and instructions are the same."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Noted judge found love of his life at first sight

"Covering his retirement party was one of my first assignments when I joined The Legal News six years ago. It proved to be the ultimate get-acquainted session with Gene Schnelz, who was about to leave the Oakland County Circuit Court in 2007 after nearly 30 years on the bench, not including the four he spent as a district court judge."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Massey: Removing stigma first step to decreasing suicide

"... [Panelist] Judge Marla Parker of the 47th District Court, which covers Farmington and Farmington Hills, said 60-80 percent of men and women in jail have substance abuse problems and they aren't getting treatment. But Parker also presides over the local Sobriety Court, a diversion program, that ties treatment to criminal charges."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: 'Sexting' case: Court vacates Eaton County judge's sentence for second time

"The state Court of Appeals for a second time has said an Eaton County judge incorrectly imposed a reduced sentence in a 'sexting' case. In a unanimous decision released today, the appeals court said now-retired Circuit Court Judge Calvin Osterhaven had not properly stated the reasons for imposing a shorter sentence than what was called for under state sentencing guidelines."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Macomb County Legal News: Jury diversity and jury service discussed

"A forum about the importance of ethnically and racially diverse juries in the criminal justice system and the importance of jury service was recently conducted at the Lebanese American Heritage Club in Dearborn."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Retired Muskegon judge Tom Linck's accused robber scheduled for trial

"A trial date has been set for Romero Geonee Neal, who is charged with robbing retired Muskegon County Probate Judge Tom Linck at gunpoint. Neal, 26, of Muskegon is scheduled for trial March 26 before Muskegon County 14th Circuit Judge Annette R. Smedley."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: GUEST OPINION: Don't allow a youthful indiscretion ruin your future

Oakland County Circuit Judge Rudy Nichols writes "A criminal record can have a devastating impact on a young person's future. Harmless high school pranks, minor brushes with the law and following the crowd without standing up and saying 'no' can result in a teenager being labeled a criminal or juvenile delinquent with a criminal record for the rest of his or her life."

[Full story](#)